

Request for Remote Public Input for House Select Committee on COVID-19 Public Comments Report - LINC

Date Submitted	Category	Name	Comments
04/22/2020 06:41 PM	Education Working Group	Ms. Kimberly Miller	Sending kids back to school earlier in August will cause a lot of problems for families and teachers. My kids won't be there for the first 2 weeks in August due to a scheduled vacation. That means they are going to miss lots of information and maybe even some testing. I know they won't be the only ones. Teachers and students have not been on a "break" through this shutdown. Families and teachers have plans that they are looking forward to. Vacation plans are most critical right now because of everything our families and teachers have already had to endure. Visiting family and being able to take a planned trip is our family's number one priority and something we are very much looking forward to and we are not going willing to have that taken away. If you start earlier in August, we will not be there until at least 8/17.
04/22/2020 09:00 PM	Education Working Group	Ms Nichole Holloway	I've worked over 16 years consecutively in the N.C. Community College System and have some major concerns with regard to the Covid 19 related issues. I'm specifically asking The. Governor to take into consideration state workers with kids for which the state will be deciding their fate for the remainder of the school year. I don't think, I know schools will not be prepared to manage social distancing in Cumberland County while keeping our children safe as this city is seeing a rise in cases. I've witnessed protesters of small businesses on tv and if the state wants to allow them to put themselves at risk, so be it but I hope that our state will allow our children to remain home. I work for Sandhills Community College in Moore County & I'm currently successfully working from home . My daughter, a 6 th grader with asthma ,like myself would be high risk if she were to return to her school. I commend her private school Cornerstone Christian Academy who's provided all needed to successfully complete her school year from home. Please consider the health of at risk North Carolinians. It could really mean life or death for someone like myself & my daughter.
04/22/2020 09:34 PM	Education Working Group	Mr. Brian Nealey	I heard you might be trying to start school earlier in August. You guys have no idea what this virus will look like come August. Some people are not sending their kids back until there is a vaccine while other have made plans in August to travel and do other things that will pump money into the economy. I'm not sure if the purpose of going back early is to review missed material or to get a head start in case students are out again. It is very possible that starting kids earlier in August makes the virus come back earlier too since they will be back in close contact with each other. It seems to not be a great solution and it is going to cause more stress and disruption to people than the solution that it offers. I'm not sending my children back to school until they have had a chance to go out and do the things they would typically do in summer. The longer the shutdown continues, the longer it will take for us to go out and do those things. August is always our time to travel and visit relatives and as long as things are open, we are keeping those plans. If you start earlier in August, it better be voluntarily until they date we were already told school would open. Please treat students as people first. Trips and activities are more important now than ever. How or why would you ever expect people to change their plans, especially after all they have been through? And we aren't talking shifting by a week, but 3-4 weeks. You cannot do that to people. I bet it is the only thing some people have to look forward to all year, so you will be sending people who are already in despair into a greater depression. Also, I'm not sure if these are intended to be extra weeks that they will be in school or if

Date Submitted	Category	Name	Comments
			they will be getting out earlier. We are definitely not going to school for 3-4 extra weeks. Good luck convincing people of that. We have been homeschooling. You need to remember that this has not a vacation for anyone.
04/22/2020 11:15 PM	Education Working Group	School Start Date Melissa Doherty	I read an article today where some leaders were discussing changing the school calendar to early August. I have a high school student who works full time during the summer. If you make that change, he will miss up to 4 weeks of full time pay, which he needs to help pay his expenses. It is even possible that he will lose the job he has lined up because the employer will need to find someone else for those hours. Have you considered consequences of your decisions or even asked for any public feedback when making decisions that can negatively impact your students and families? Please do not make this change so that my son can work and earn the money he needs.
04/23/2020 03:37 AM	Education Working Group	Ms. Karen Mallam	<p>Chairman Moore, Covid-19 Committee, NCGA</p> <p>Dear Chairman Moore,</p> <p>The Washington Post dated 4/13/2020 reported that due to Covid-19, millions of students will suffer from school closures. Based on the experience from Covid-19, we are requesting that the NCGA fund a major investment in NC students by funding a supportive technology infrastructure for schools and students to develop a remote Distance – Learning Model. This model would make available a continuum of learning opportunities and services for students regardless of location, and socio-economic status, as part of NC’s disaster preparation. With the possibility that occurrences like the COVID 19 can occur again, wouldn’t it make sense to develop and implement a system for all schools to use that would provide a continuation of education and related services for students, should the need arise? Continuity of education and related services for students should be a priority, as these young people are our future.</p> <p>Right now, as in many cities and communities throughout the US, not every child has access to a computer and / or the internet at home to be able to access distance-learning education. This needs to change, and can be by creating partnerships between the school system(s) and telecommunication. For example, MCPS in Maryland and FCPS in Virginia, school systems are partnering with telecommunication companies (Verizon, AT &T, etc...) to provide basic internet access in student homes that have no internet. School systems are loaning chromebooks (Acer computers) that are signed out to each student to be used during this remote distance learning period. The New York Times, and other businesses are offering support, access, and monies to communities that need help in setting up these distance-learning systems. MCPS and FCPS have been very creative in developing / presenting online curriculum using different programs and platforms, some of which include, but are not limited to Google Classroom, Zoom, MY MCPSPortal (MCPS), Blackboard, etc.. Challenging times call for creativity, resourcefulness, and partnering to set up programs by which ALL students from pre-K through grade 12, have the opportunity to learn – albeit in a nontraditional way. By ensuring every student has these basic technological tools, it also ensures every family is connected to school and resources. This needs to be implemented before the next disaster pandemic – as soon as possible.</p>

Date Submitted	Category	Name	Comments
			<p>Thank you for your consideration,</p> <p>Sincerely, Karen Mallam</p>
04/23/2020 07:35 AM	Education Working Group	Stephanie Brown	<p>Broadband throughout the state!</p> <p>We need stronger Internet and broadband THROUGHOUT North Carolina. K-12 and college students in rural areas cannot do their homework. See https://www.wunc.org/post/lack-broadband-internet-obstacle-rural-students</p> <p>Please repeal SESSION LAW 2011-84 HOUSE BILL 129 AN ACT TO PROTECT JOBS AND INVESTMENT BY REGULATING LOCAL GOVERNMENT COMPETITION WITH PRIVATE BUSINESS. This "limits the ability of local municipal governments to set up their own high-speed internet service. The law spared cable companies from having to compete with municipal systems that could deliver the same high-speed internet access at a lower price." https://www.newsobserver.com/latest-news/article210366074.html</p> <p>Internet should be treated as a public utility and should be available to ALL in North Carolina.</p>
04/23/2020 02:12 PM	Education Working Group	Ms. Denise Spaugh	<p>Thank you for your leadership for the people of North Carolina during this time of crisis. One policy solution that is needed now more than ever is Medicaid expansion. We know that this has been a highly political issue but this is a new time calling for new solutions. We know that all legislators are looking out for what's best for North Carolinians. During this crisis and beyond, access to health care is critical to protect the health of individuals, their families, and our entire population. Please work together and pass legislation that would bring desperately needed federal Medicaid funds to our state and most importantly provides health coverage for our friends and neighbors. For many of the 500,000 North Carolinians who were in the coverage gap before the virus – the situation has become far worse. Many of these uninsured workers continue to work the front lines at child care centers, nursing homes, and grocery stores. They simply can't afford to get sick. And then there are the newly unemployed and uninsured: in March, well over 300,000 North Carolinians filed for unemployment insurance. Those numbers are rising daily and most of these people will be uninsured soon if they aren't already.</p> <p>Sincerely,</p>